

In re application of Sato
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Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-1603

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A developing agent to perform black development, which is used in combination with a color developing agent containing toner particles having (i) a chromatic coloring material, (ii) a first binder resin containing a polyester resin having a first acidic value, (iii) wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the first binder resin, and (iv) wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the first binder resin, [[and]] which contains the developing agent to perform black development comprising:
 - toner particles having a black coloring material,
 - a second binder resin containing a polyester resin having a second acidic value higher than the first acidic value,
 - wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the second binder resin,
 - and
 - wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the second binder resin.
2. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 1, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value and the polyester resin having the second acidic value have a softening point of 100 to 150°C.
3. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 1, wherein the first acidic value is 6 to 12 KOH mg/g, and the second acidic value is 12 to 29 KOH mg/g.
4. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 1, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester

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resin having the second acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 60,000.

5. (Currently Amended) A developing agent according to claim 1, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester resin having the second acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 4,000.

6. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 1, further containing carrier particles each having a silane-coupling-processed surface and a silicone resin layer coating the silane-coupling-processed surface.

7. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 6, wherein the silicone resin layer contains carbon.

8. (Currently Amended) A developing agent to perform color development, which contains comprising:

toner particles having

a chromatic coloring material,

a first binder resin containing a polyester resin having a first acidic value,

wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the first binder resin,

and

wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the first binder resin, and which wherein the coloring agent to perform color development is used in combination with a black developing agent containing toner particles having (i) a black coloring material, (ii) a second binder resin containing a polyester resin having a second acidic value higher than the first acidic value, (iii) wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the second binder resin, and (iv) wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the second binder

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resin.

9. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 8, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value and the polyester resin having the second acidic value have a softening point of 100 to 150°C.
10. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 8, wherein the first acidic value is 6 to 12 KOH mg/g, and the second acidic value is 12 to 29 KOH mg/g.
11. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 8, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester resin having the second acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 60,000.
12. (Currently Amended) A developing agent according to claim 8, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester resin having the second acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 4,000.
13. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 8, further containing carrier particles each having a silane-coupling-processed surface and a silicone resin layer coating the silane-coupling-processed surface.
14. (Original) A developing agent according to claim 13, wherein the silicone resin layer contains carbon.
15. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus comprising: a developing unit which opposes an image carrier, which contains a color developing agent containing toner particles having a

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chromatic coloring material, a first binder resin containing a polyester resin having a first acidic value, wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the first binder resin, and wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the first binder resin, and a black developing agent containing toner particles having a black coloring material, a second binder resin containing a polyester resin having a second acidic value higher than the first acidic value, wax having a softening point higher than a softening point of the second binder resin, and wax having a softening point lower than the softening point of the second binder resin, and which forms a developing agent image by developing an electrostatic latent image formed on the image carrier; a transfer unit to transfer the developing agent image onto a transfer medium; and a fixing unit which has a heating roller, a peeling roller separated from the heating roller, a fixing belt looped between the heating roller and peeling roller, and a pressure roller capable of pressing the heating roller via the fixing belt, and which forms an image by fixing the transferred developing agent image onto the transfer medium.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the image has a glossiness of not more than 10.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value and the polyester resin having the second acidic value have a softening point of 100 to 150°C.

18. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first acidic value is 6 to 12 KOH mg/g, and the second acidic value is 12 to 29 KOH mg/g.

19. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester resin having the second acidic value has a weight-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 60,000.

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20. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the polyester resin having the first acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 5,000 to 90,000, and the polyester resin having the second acidic value has a number-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 4,000.
21. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, further containing carrier particles each having a silane-coupling-processed surface and a silicone resin layer coating the silane-coupling-processed surface.
22. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the silicone resin layer contains carbon.

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